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SBC to gather at annual meeting in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (BP) — With a desire to keep the focus on the power of revival and prayer, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Fred Luter expressed excitement about this year's SBC annual meeting June 10-11 in Baltimore.

Pointing to the annual meeting theme, Restoration and Revival through Prayer, Luter noted the return of a Tuesday evening revival service similar in style to last year's that has drawn positive feedback from participants.

"I wanted to again stay with the theme revival, but let's undergird it with prayer," Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, told Baptist Press. "Last year in Houston ... it was phenomenally successful. It was standing room only.... All we had was music and preaching. That was something that we thought went so well that we wanted to do that again. [On that Tuesday evening,] we just come for worship and the word. That's it. No business will be conducted."

Luter selected the theme verse, Psalm 80:18-19: "Then we will not turn away from You; revive us, and we will call on Your name. Restore us, Yahweh, the God of Hosts; look on us with favor, and we will be saved" (HCSB).

As the first-ever African American to lead the SBC when he was elected in 2012, Luter will give his last message to the convention as SBC president June 10. He has served two consecutive terms and is constitutionally ineligible for reelection.

Luter also will address Southern Baptist associational leaders June 6 at a banquet at the Inner Harbor Holiday Inn. Tickets are still available by visiting sbc.org.

Election

Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd will be nominated for SBC president by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

Floyd has led Cross Church in northwest Arkansas with campuses in Springdale, Rogers, and Fayetteville for 27 years. Floyd was chairman of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force for the SBC in 2009-10. The task force report called for international missions to receive 51% of all Cooperative Program gifts. Last year, Cross Church contributed more than \$700,000 to the Cooperative Program. Mohler noted in his letter announcing Floyd's nomination.

Floyd is a former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and was a member of the SBC's Program and Structure Task Force that reorganized SBC agencies during the mid-1990s. In recent months, Floyd helped spearhead pastor/leader prayer gatherings in Atlanta and Ft. Worth. Each meeting drew participants from about 30 states.

In addition to serving as general editor for LifeWay's updated Bible Studies for Life, Floyd has authored 10 books. His latest book, which was released in 2011, is *Our Last Great Hope: Awakening the Great Commission*.



Other announced nominees for SBC offices include:

■ Clint Pressley, senior pastor of Hickory Grove Church in Charlotte, N.C., will be nominated by Ted Traylor, senior pastor of Olive Church, Pensacola, for the office of first vice president.

Pressley serves as vice president of the SBC Pastor's Conference and is a former vice chairman of the trustees for Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

■ Hance Dilbeck, senior pastor of Quail Springs Church in Oklahoma City, will be nominated for the office of second vice president by former SBC president Johnny Hunt, pastor of Woodstock Church in suburban Atlanta.

Dilbeck has led the 4,600-member church since 2003 and has been a pastor for more than 20 years.

■ John L. Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, will be nominated for an 18th term as recording secretary by Jason K. Allen, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. Yeats has pastored churches in six states during his forty-plus years in ministry, and holds a doctor of ministry degree from Midwestern Seminary.

He has also overseen communications and public policy for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and is a former editor of state Baptist papers in Oklahoma and Indiana.

Crossover Baltimore

Baltimore Association, the North American Mission Board, local churches, asso-

ciations, and other volunteers are working closely as they gear up for this year's Crossover Baltimore.

The outreach — with its block parties and door-to-door evangelism efforts — joins Baptists together in evangelism in the host city of the annual meeting.

"Our churches are excited about the unique opportunity to share Christ with our city that Crossover will bring," Bob Mackey, executive director of the Baltimore Association, said in a March 10 article released by Baptist Press.

"Baltimore is not like a lot of other places in the country," Mackey said. "We're not in a predominantly Christian region of the country. We don't have a church on every corner or throngs of people actively seeking out Christianity."

"Our hope is that, through the partnership of others in the SBC, Crossover will represent Christ to the people of Baltimore and our region and lay a greater foundation for our local churches."

Baltimore is one of North American Mission Board's key 32 cities in the Send North America strategy to plant more churches in the largest and least-reached cities in North America. Some of the Crossover Baltimore projects will directly benefit local church plants in the city.

For more information on Crossover Baltimore, visit namb.net/crossover and embracebaltimore.com/crossover. Cindy Irizarry, director of mobilization and logistics, may be contacted at cindycrossoverbaltimore2014@gmail.com, or (443) 219-2543.

see SBC on p. 10

Meet the Nominees

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

June 10-11



RONNIE FLOYD
president nominee



CLINT PRESSLEY
first vice president nominee



HANCE DILBECK
second vice president nominee



JOHN L. YEATS
recording secretary nominee

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Southern Baptist
Historical Library & Archive
Nashville, TN



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Do your homework

Americans in general — and Mississippians in particular — seem to be in a mighty foul political mood these days, and who can blame us? Our political leaders up and down the line have largely failed us.

Too many of our political leaders are drunk with power (or just drunk). Too many are more interested in their own re-election than they are in the People's Business. Too many are enslaved to monied interests or personal aggrandizement. To be fair, there are politicians who are indeed focused solely on the public interest — but then again some politicians are simply unfit for office.

There's a great thing about living in a democratic republic as Americans do, and that's elections. We are not governed by kings or dictators in office for life, who then smooth the way for their sons to take over for life. When an American politician's specified term of office is nearing an end, he/she has to stand for re-election. If the people so choose, that politician is rewarded with another term of office. If it is not the will of a majority of the people voting in that particular election, he/she is turned out of office and a new person is elected.

With the task of determining the direction of the government comes great responsibility on the part of voters. Just as politicians sometimes fall short of voters' expectations, voters often fail to use who stand for election by not being informed and prepared to select the best possible candidate. Studies show that many voters make their decisions based on the most shallow of considerations, such as a candidate's physical attractiveness or impressive elocution.

That should not be the case. Voting for our political leaders is much too important to be taken as lightly as many Americans do. If we elect scoundrels because we do not do our homework as involved citizens, then we will get the government we deserve. On the other hand, if we elect the best candidates to office based on

conversations with them and the study of their positions on important issues, we will get the government we deserve in that case too. It's our choice.

How do we judge the capabilities and qualifications of a candidate for the office he/she is seeking? One of the best ways is to consider the totality of that person's record both in public and private life. A big mistake voters often make in deciding for whom to vote is that we get stuck on one issue and expect the candidate to have a perfect scorecard on that one issue. If we are anti-abortion, that's the only issue that matters to us and we don't much care what the candidate believes about immigration reform. If we are passionate about immigration reform, we focus on that like a laser beam and overlook the candidate's position on abortion.

That's the way one-dimensional candidates get elected to office. They may appeal to you on a single issue that tickles your ears, but the totality of their record betrays that they are against you on almost every other important issue.

Don't fail to look at a candidate's private life, and don't be too timid to do so. While some people argue that a person's private life has nothing to do with his/her public life, that's simply not true. There are many sad examples of that fact.

The party primaries in Mississippi's 2014 election cycle are nearly upon us. Candidates will be touting their credentials to hold office, and pressing voters to elect them. Pray for them, and pray for wisdom in exercising your right to vote.

As Christians and as Baptists, there are issues important to us that each candidate should be prepared to address, such as abortion, homosexuals' demands for rights, and creeping societal secularism. We need to ask tough questions and expect honest answers. We need to do our homework. We need to be ready when we walk into the voting booth.

Rest assured we're going to get the government we deserve, one way or the other.

Evolving standards

Darwinian evolution has been taught in most American public schools for more than 60 years. Over the years it has become more and more embedded in biology and even in earth science and history, but it is not a part of every grade. In 2013, new national science standards were released, which included major changes in how evolution should be taught.

According to the new national science standards, the teaching of evolution would be a major idea that is taught progressively every year from kindergarten through high school. Parents, educators, and churches need to be informed about what this will mean to our children before these standards are brought up for adoption in Mississippi.

After evaluating the new science standards, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute gave it a mediocre grade of a "C," citing weak academic standards. However, under the new standards, the two topics of evolution and climate change are allotted large amounts of classroom time and emphasis. Students will certainly be more informed about evolution and climate change when they graduate, but they may not be better prepared for scientific or technical careers.

For Christian parents and for churches, the new emphasis on teaching evolution may cause even deeper spiritual problems. Children read that the first humans lived as cavemen long ago and these cavemen evolved over millions of years from apelike animals. They see little reason to doubt these things since this is the only explanation they hear in school, the teachers endorse it, and it's printed in their books.

Evolution will continue to be taught throughout school as factual and without scientific challenges. Even as children mature and begin to develop critical reasoning skills, they will be given few opportunities to hear the scientific evidences that challenge Darwinian evolution. Many adults continue to struggle with what to believe about origins for the same reason.

Churches generally teach that the first man and woman were made in the image of God, and they were created to live in fellowship with Him. For some Christians, details about how humans arrived on earth are not considered necessary for salvation. However, understanding what happened in the beginning is an important part of God's plan of redemption.

Essential to the Gospel is an understanding that Adam and Eve were real people who were created as perfect humans. In their original state, their physical bodies were designed to never die. They had amazing intellect, and were spiritually in harmony with God and with each other. They did not need to gradually learn to talk, keep records, build things, or



Guest opinion
with Carolyn Reeves

learn complex skills and behaviors. This was built-in knowledge that was present on Day One, somewhat like a computer that comes with built-in information.

However, Adam and Eve chose disobedience of their own free wills and introduced sin into the world. Most of the Bible is about God's plan to restore and redeem sinful men and women from the Fall. God's plan to restore mankind is what we know as the Gospel. The first chapters of Genesis are essential to the understanding of the Gospel and they cannot be reconciled with Darwinian evolution for several reasons.

Unless children (and adults) understand that the first man and woman were perfect created beings who were ruined by sin, they will never understand why man needs a Savior or why the cross was necessary to restore all that was lost at the Fall. Furthermore, people may not realize that God's plan of restoration includes a way that believers will be able to live with a holy God forever, just as it was in the beginning.

If our first ancestors were cave men who evolved from ape-like animals, they were not perfect beings made in the image of God. According to Darwinian evolution, the first pre-humans gradually acquired more physical and mental skills until they became fully human. According to the Bible, the highly intelligent, physically fit descendants of Adam and Eve, apart from God, were lost to corruption. Their own efforts to again become "good enough" in God's sight were totally inadequate.

The Good News is that God did not give up on the humans He loved and had created. Instead He sent His Son Jesus, the perfect man, to redeem with His own blood all who accept and believe the Gospel.

1. <http://www.edexcellence.net/publications/final-evaluation-of-NGSS.html>

Reeves, who holds an Ed.D. degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, retired after 30 years as a public school science teacher. She is a member of North Oxford Church, Oxford, and co-author of a series of science books used by homeschoolers and Christian schools. Reeves may be contacted at carolynreeves22@gmail.com. Web site: undergroundparadigm.com

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Crossover crosses threshold, looks to future

NASHVILLE (BP) — For the past 25 years, Southern Baptists have begun each annual meeting by celebrating hundreds — sometimes thousands — of new souls won for Christ. The celebration is the result of Crossover, the evangelistic outreach initiative preceding the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Each year, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) partners with state conventions, associations, and local churches to saturate the host city of the Convention with evangelistic events. Volunteers from across the country arrive in the city a few days prior to the annual convention to participate alongside local church members.

Last year, Crossover Houston marked the 25th year of outreach.

In 1983, when messengers approved Las Vegas as the 1989 SBC annual meeting site, they adopted a recommendation to add "a strong evangelistic emphasis in connection with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1989."

The week prior to the Convention's annual meeting in Las Vegas, more than two thousand volunteers participated in door-to-door witnessing campaigns and revival services. They visited more than 100,000 homes and led approximately 470 people to Christ.

The following year, the SBC Home Mission Board (now NAMB) planned a second evangelistic event to coincide with the SBC annual meeting. The annual saturation evangelism initiative became known as Crossover in 1991, when then-SBC president Morris H. Chapman worked with the Home Mission Board to expand the one-day outreach into a full week.

Crossover Atlanta that year involved door-to-door witnessing, serving meals to the homeless, street evangelism, and prayer throughout the city. The event saw 333 decisions for Christ.

The name, "Crossover," was inspired by an evangelism conference in Australia where Chapman spoke in 1987. The theme of the conference was, Crossover Australia. In an interview with the magazine SBC LIFE, Chapman recalled being struck by the dual meaning of the name.

First, he said, picturing the cross over Australia reminded him of Jesus' words in John 12:32: "As for Me, if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to Myself" (HCSB). Secondly, Crossover Australia inspired images of believers traveling across the country to spread the Gospel.

Chapman's original vision for "Crossover America" focused on church planting, but the name ultimately found its home with the pre-convention evangelistic thrust that Southern Baptists know today.

Leaders equipped

Throughout its 25-year history, Crossover has continued to

impact lives and souls long after the volunteers returned home. Participating in Crossover equips believers to share their faith more effectively, including the next generation of pastors and ministers who are going through seminary training.

Preston Nix, director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health at New Orleans Seminary, has seen Crossover transform the lives of his students, some of whom were already serving as pastors. "It changes students' lives, and it affects and impacts their ministry," he said.

Since Crossover Louisville in 2009, seminaries have offered personal evangelism training courses that coincide with Crossover outreach. Students partner with Intentional Community Evangelism teams or local church members to participate in door-to-door and street evangelism the week before the SBC annual meeting.

"We're intentional about verbally communicating our faith to the lost so they can come to faith in Jesus Christ," Nix said. Crossover Louisville resulted in 1,035 recorded salvations.



CROSSOVER MEMORIES — In this file photo from the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, volunteers participate in the very first Crossover event which preceded the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas.

RAISED IN CHRIST — A new believer is baptized during Crossover Indianapolis in 2004. (BP photo)

by Crossover and church planting efforts in 2006.

Fifteen new churches were started that year, due in part to Crossover and a church planting initiative called Operation Reach. Twelve of those churches are still active today, he said.

"As a result of both Crossover and Operation Reach, church planting became a passionate priority for the Baptist family," Doyle said. "I believe it was the intentional focus on our community that did it. It helped us turn our focus outward and enabled us to see people and needs we had not seen before."

Keith Hall, pastor of The Journey Church in High Point, N.C., was already burdened to reach his community by early 2006. He and another pastor, along with their wives and eight other couples, began meeting as a church that summer.

Hall learned a lot from Crossover Greensboro and other related training events. He saw people from diverse back-

grounds and various levels of training all working together to reach the community.

Seeing all the volunteers on the "same missional page" was inspiring to Hall. "It inspired me to believe in the mission," he said.

The Journey Church has grown from the initial 10 couples to around 250 today. Its focus remains the same — creating a diverse church community, serving locally and globally, and reaching people for Christ.

Churches encouraged

When Crossover volunteers serve alongside local churches, those churches come out of the experience encouraged. From a practical standpoint, Crossover teams can assist churches with projects or events that they may not have the manpower to complete on their own.

The teams also advertise church events door-to-door, which increases the church's visibility in the community and cre-

ates new opportunities for church members to develop relationships.

After Crossover, local church members are emboldened to go out sharing the Gospel on their own. Church members and volunteers learn from each other during outreach events, and once the teams have left, the local church members continue that vision.

As a result, churches often experience increases in baptisms for years after Crossover.

Nix also sees an opportunity to encourage churches in SBC annual meeting host cities located outside the Bible Belt. Nix participated in the first outreach in Las Vegas, and remembers the effect the event had on the local churches there.

"It was an emotional, spiritual boost to them that Southern Baptists were coming in and helping them in a very non-Southern Baptist, very secular, worldly setting," he said. He believes that much like in Las Vegas, there is a unique opportunity to serve churches during Crossover Baltimore in 2014 and Crossover Columbus in 2015.

Souls saved

Since 1989, NAMB has reported more than 30,000 professions of faith in Jesus Christ as a direct result of Crossover activities. Thousands more have been put in contact with local Southern Baptist churches.

When a person is saved, Chapman said, there is incredible joy both for the one who accepts Christ and for the ones who are able to witness their spiritual transformation. "Salvation is a miracle when it happens and Christ has given us the opportunity to experience the joy of a miracle taking place right in front of our eyes."

Crossover volunteers who experience that joy often participate in Crossover year after year. They return to their churches and spread the joy to their congregations.

"What a joy it is for the believer to return to his or her home church and testify that upon witnessing to an unsaved person, the person confessed his or her sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Savior," Chapman said. "What a blessing it will be to the church not only to hear the testimony but to catch the spirit of one upon whom God has poured out His blessings due to that person's faithfulness."

Crossover Baltimore

Baltimore Association, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, and local churches continue to prepare and pray for Crossover Baltimore in 2014. Reflecting on 25 years of Crossover, Chapman said: "Hallelujah, what a Savior! And what a way to begin a Convention!"

For more information, visit embracebaltimore.com/crossover/.

In the beautiful 23rd Psalm, David looks to the Great Shepherd and he says, "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (v. 3). During the days of David, the king-shepherd, the main mode of transportation was to walk, and so to accommodate all of the walkers across the countryside, there were paths that would lead from one town to another, one house to another, one country to another. We may be the most non-walking society that has ever existed. Our pathways have become roads and streets and super highways where we can travel fast to get where we are going, but we rarely walk. In fact, wherever we drive, we want to be able to park so close to the door of the facility that we can just open the door and fall out into the seat or pew, or have a cart come by and pick us up and take us to where we want to be. You no longer have to walk even to buy your groceries or shop in a mega store or even to exercise. You can ride a cart to chase your golf ball or to get to your deer stand, but there is something wonderful about walking. For it allows you a measure of time to process what you are seeing and where you are going that our fast paced world doesn't allow. It also gives you time to adjust to what you may be running into on the pathway.

It was before sunrise that I headed out to walk on one of the first warm mornings of spring. I knew that it was getting about time for Mr. No Shoulders to start making his way out of hibernation and get active, but I didn't think that he would be out so early or be on any of the paths that I would be traveling. I hate snakes, creepy, slithering snakes. I know some of you are snake lovers and you may think that I need some therapy or some form of treatment, but if you love them, speaking to those of us who hate them, you have a problem. On this particular morning, I was thrilled that winter was moving off



Eyes On the Path

the scene and the days and the nights were warming up. I was walking along at a good pace enjoying the moderate temperatures on a beautiful new day. I did not notice what was in the path right in front of me until my right foot was suspended over it. At that moment, there was no jumping power or help to leap. I had one leg over a snake and the other one not wanting to come in that direction. My body just continued forward and awkwardly I took another step and another, faster, faster, and got ten or fifteen yards away and looked back. In the darkness of the morning, there he was, about three feet long and stretched out in the path. I wondered if he was dead but in the dark I could not see well enough to tell if he was even moving or sticking his tongue out. I sure didn't want to get closer to him to find out. My blood pressure had risen, my heart rate was somewhere around 500 it seemed, and I thought again about how much I hate snakes.

I realized that I would have probably saved myself a whole lot of anxiety and uncertainty if I had simply been watching the path more closely, but I was not

In fact, what I was doing was listening to and watching for some of the neighborhood birds that were beginning their songs early in the morning. I was simply looking around at the neighborhood and the activities that were going on as people were beginning to get up, get their newspapers and move about, but I was not watching the path. If I had been, I could have backed away and gone a little bit different route. And so not wanting to disturb the snake and not wanting to get any closer, I just turned and kept on walking away from him. In about fifteen minutes I came back the same direction and all the time my mind had been on that snake in the path. Now I was coming to check on him again, this time, with every bit of eye power I could muster. I was looking for him, and sure enough, there he was. I walked to where he was about ten or fifteen feet from him and I realized he had not moved from the time I saw him before. I assumed that he was dead, but I would not take a chance even on a dead snake. So I moved closer and closer, cautiously, to what was in the path. I finally got close enough and with a stick

in my hand I punched him. I realized he had been dead for some time and that all of my trouble and anxiety was not necessary. I probably could have settled that some time ago if I had just had my eyes on the path.

Our wonderful Shepherd leads us day by day whether we are traveling fast or slow, walking or driving fast down an interstate. The paths of life are still before us. What is amazing is that very little has changed. For whether we are slowly striding along down a pathway or driving fast on the highway, we sometimes get distracted and do not realize that Satan himself or maybe someone representing him will throw obstacles in our pathway. Sometimes they will be dead things, maybe dragged up from your past, and there they are right before you in the darkness of the day striking fear in your heart. At other times they may be those kinds of tests and temptations that hide in the bushes along the pathways of your life and seek to ambush you. Sometimes they are beautiful things that are attractive but not appropriate and you face a decision of whether you will bypass it, step over it, back away from it, or just simply turn and go another way. There are so many of those kinds of things that come as obstacles that can trip you and make you fall or temptations that will hurt you and rob you of the steps ahead. Sometimes personal desire and ambition outside of the plan of God will take you off the path. Get back to the word that David gives us, "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness" (Ps. 23:3). You can rest assured He will. Trust Him, lean on Him, walk with Him and you can indeed enjoy the blessings of the Great Shepherd, but you will be wise to keep your eyes on the path wherever it may lead.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Bible Drill



(TOP LEFT) CENTER CHURCH, ATTALA COUNTY, recognizes its Bible drillers.

(TOP RIGHT) IMMANUEL CHURCH, GREENWOOD, recognizes its Bible drillers: Drake Dunn, Rena Clair Perkins, Austin Smith, Carleigh Rose McCrimmon, Martha Clark Robertson, and leader Bea Ellis.



(BOTTOM LEFT) LIBERTY CHURCH, WAYNE COUNTY ASSOCIATION, recognizes student participants Alexis Hill, Mallory Pitts, McCayla Pitts, and Josias Reyes; and children participants Brock Brabham, Jonathan Reyes, and Sam Stokley.

(BOTTOM RIGHT) SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, recognizes its student Bible drillers. Front, Brianna Jaudon and Autumn Smith; back, Brittany Jaudon, Alleyna Lovorn, and Carley Puckett.



Blue Mountain College to get new men's dorm

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Ms. (Special) — To facilitate continually increasing male student enrollment, Blue Mountain College (BMC) has purchased the former Blue Mountain Children's Home that will soon serve as a men's dormitory.

"In order for BMC to grow, we've got to have the space," said Barbara Childers McMillin, who is completing her second year as president. "This property gives us an opportunity to expand and offer more housing options while we prepare to meet long-term housing issues on our campus."

BMC's enrollment in 2013-14 was 532. The male student population has grown from 86 in 2004 to 217 for the current year. BMC, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention since 1920, was founded by the Lowery family in 1873 as a female college. The school wel-

comed male students for the first time in 1956 when a curriculum for ministerial students was established. The school's trustees approved full co-educational status in 2005 under the leadership of former President Bettye Rogers Coward.

The Blue Mountain Children's Home, located 1.6 miles south of the BMC campus, was owned and operated by the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ Church for more than 25 years but has been vacant for three years. In addition to the existing main dormitory, there are also two auxiliary buildings on the 10-acre campus.

A complete renovation of the property is expected to be completed by the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year. Renovations will include the 9,458-square foot housing facility, a 6,800-square foot multi-func-

tion building, and a smaller classroom/meeting room building.

The dormitory will have rooms for up to 40 students and apartments for two proctors. The renovations will include:

- Updating the heating-cooling system.
 - Updating existing restrooms and adding two more restrooms.
 - Updating and enlarging the kitchen.
 - Creating 40 parking spaces.
 - Updating and enlarging the laundry room.
 - Re-furnishing the commons area.
 - Installing up-to-date security system.
 - Exterior facelift.
 - Landscaping and signage.
- The multi-function building will be transformed into an indoor practice facility for the BMC baseball and softball teams.

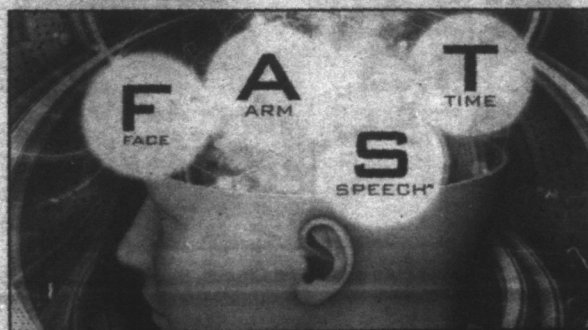


Architectural rendering of new BMC men's dormitory

McMillin said a shuttle service to the main campus will be provided, and that breakfast and dinner would be served at the new facility during the week.

The BMC president said applications to the new residence

hall would initially come from upperclassmen — juniors and seniors. "Our current men's dormitory (Cockcroft) is full. We want to make this something special for a group of deserving young men."



Think F.A.S.T.

May is National Stroke Awareness Month, and Baptist wants to remind everyone that recognizing the signs of a stroke can reduce the chances of long-term disability.

FACE: Ask the person to smile. Does one side droop?

ARMS: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one side drift downwards?

SPEECH: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

TIME: If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

If treatment occurs within three hours of the first symptoms, the risk of long-term disability can be significantly reduced.

BAPTIST
Memorial Hospitals of Mississippi

Get Better.

BOONEVILLE, COLUMBUS, NEW HAVEN, OXFORD, SOUTHAVEN

BMC alum sets new mark at Baptist-affiliated school

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Ms. (Special) — David Hamilton, pastor of West Heights Church in Pontotoc, has been named Alumnus of the Year at Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Blue Mountain. Hamilton, who earned his Bachelor of Arts from BMC in 1978, is the first-ever male to be chosen for the honor by the college's Alumni Association.

Joining Hamilton (left in photo) for a recent recognition ceremony at the college were (from left) wife Susan and sons Nathan and Ben.

BMC, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Con-



vention since 1920, was founded by the Lowery family in 1873 as a female college. The school welcomed male students for the first time in 1956 when a curriculum for ministerial students was established. The school's trustees approved full co-educational status in 2005 under the leadership of former President Bettye Rogers Coward.

Hamilton has served over the years in a number of capacities at the associational, Mississippi Baptist Convention, and

Southern Baptist Convention levels. He recently completed two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson and currently serves on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Hamilton has also served two terms on the BMC Board of Trustees and as an adjunct professor of Old Testament at the school. He is a chaplain for both the Pontotoc County Sheriff's Department and the Tupelo Police Department.

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Just for the Record



SHILOH CHURCH, MARION COUNTY, recognized Dot Campbell on Mother's Day as the oldest mother present at age 91.



NEW VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH, SUMMIT, held its first Easter egg hunt Apr. 16 at the chapel on the campus of Southwest Mississippi Community College.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, held its annual baby dedication May 11. Shown is the Ryals family: Laura, Baylee Nicole, Alyssa, and Chris.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, had eight GA's go to First Church, Summit, for Mission Madness. Jenny Leggett, GA leader; Hal Hatten, pastor.



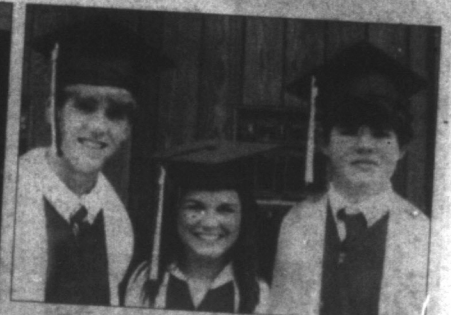
MORGAN CHAPEL CHURCH, STURGIS, licensed Kenny Roberson III to the gospel ministry May 11. Shown are Gary K. Roberson, Jr., pastor; Roberson, and Kenny Roberson. Roberson is available for pulpit supply and is a student at Grace Christian School, Louisville.



The second annual Women on Missions' Ladies' Tea was held May 3 at **CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT.** Shown are Letha Greer, Phyllis Harnsongkram, Linda Carroll, vocalist Vanessa King, guest speaker Mandie Carney, Bobbie Dunaway, and Marion Boyd.



ROXIE CHURCH, ROXIE, held their Easter program Good Friday and Easter morning.



FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA, recognized its three graduating seniors May 11. Shown are Brady Love, Sarah Grace Wade, and William Mixon.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 22, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

**I WILL
GIVE YOU
A NEW
HEART**

EZEKIEL 11:19

**PRAY FOR GOD TO
RENEW OUR HEARTS FOR
HIS MISSION.**

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TUESDAY AUGUST 26
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662-289-9730 or drumage@mbcb.org
8:15 - 11:30 a.m.
\$1 at the door

2014 SOUTH SENIOR REGIONAL RALLY
TUESDAY AUGUST 26
COMINGTON/JEFF DAVIS ASSOC. FAMILY LIFE CENTER, COLLINS
601-765-4689 or cogjaff@bellsouth.net
8:15 - 11:30 a.m.
\$1 at the door

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Contact Tammy Anderson:
tanderson@mbcb.org
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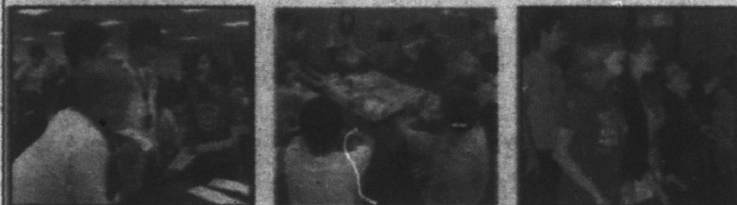
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MK RE-ENTRY RETREAT

July 28-August 1, 2014
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, MS



MK [em-kay] noun: Missionary Kid

The MK Re-entry Retreat is for children of missionaries who are entering college in the United States for the first time. The retreat provides helpful insights to prepare for the transition to college and life in the U.S. Approximately 100 students attend this event each year.

Involve your church by Adopting an MK and/or contributing to a Gift Card!

Responsibilities if you Adopt an MK:

- Your \$100 donation, which will be used to purchase select school items for your student
- Your commitment to pray for your student during the MK Re-entry Retreat
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JULY 12, 2014
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AUGUST 9, 2014
PETAL-HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PETAL

July 12, 2014
North Greenwood Baptist
Church, Greenwood
8:30 a.m. - noon
Dr. Wayne Marshall
Keynote Speaker &
Pastor/General Officer Leader

August 9, 2014
Petal-Harvey Baptist Church,
Petal
8:30 a.m. - noon
Dr. Larry LeBlanc
Keynote Speaker &
Pastor/General Officer Leader

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST *campgrounds*

Camp Garaywa: This past year, Garaywa had 6653 guests including 1314 summer campers. There were 15 professions of faith, 2 rededications and 4 felt a call to missions. Your CP dollars contributed \$158,461 to this ministry and missions endeavor of our Lord.

Central Hills: In 2013, there was a total of 4941 guests that stayed at Central Hills including 2378 summer campers. One hundred fifty-six made a profession of faith, 109 rededications, 9 called to ministry and 34 other decisions were made during this time. God did a mighty work with the \$151,303 that CP contributed to the lives of those that attended.

For more information contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion Dept. at the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 347.

2014 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND OFFICE SKILLSHOPS FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

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Pray this day for...

May 23 – June 5, 2014

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1

Pray for: **Linda & Mike Ray**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Nickolee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting and regional office support.

Pray for: **Clay & Jeri Stegall**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Jeanette Taylor**, missionary ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through regional office support.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

August 7-9, 2014

Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, MS

Theme: Meeting the Need – Acts 8:35

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus."

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National Literacy Missions Coordinator
Colorado

Jason Dukes

Author of "Live Sent"

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Glenda Reece

Author of "ESL Lessons from the Book of Mark"
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For more information, registration form and seminar schedule, please contact Paula Smith of the MS WMU at 601-292-3336 / psmith@mbcb.org.



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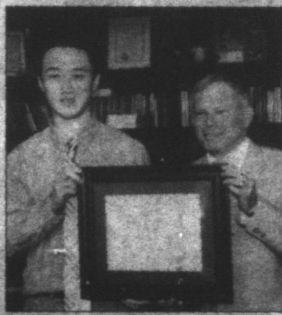
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HOUSE TOPS

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach Steve Knight has been selected as the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) 2014 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Coach of Character. This award is given each year by NAIA based on the five core values of the Champions of Character program: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership.



The No. 1 collegiate table tennis player in North America in 2014, **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** student Cheng Li, is shown displaying his resolution from Gov. Phil Bryant noting his accomplishment. Joining the business administration major is MC President Lee Royce. Cheng Li captured the title at the 2014 TMS National College Table Tennis Championship near Pittsburgh, Pa. in early April.



In other College News:

➤ **Mississippi College** students Jon Phillips and Varina Hart filmed an exercise video which won second place in a national contest sponsored by the American College of Sports Medicine.

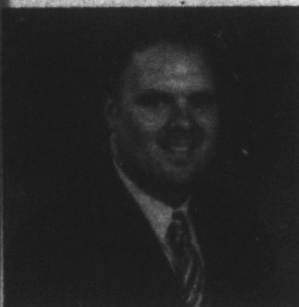
➤ **William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM)** will officially obtain accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) following the inaugural medical school graduation ceremony on May 24 at 10 a.m. in Smith Auditorium. Ninety-one students will receive their doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees during this historic event. As the 26th school of osteopathic medicine in the country and the first in the state, WCUCOM is training student doctors for careers in primary care medicine to address the physician shortage in the Gulf South Region, particularly within rural and underserved communities.



Kay Peterson, **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**, has been honored with the Aylett R. Cox Educator Award of the Academic Language Therapy Association. Peterson is a leader in MC's dyslexia therapy program and has been on faculty since 2004.

During **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S** Spring 2014 commencement on May 10, Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, received an honorary doctor of divinity degree. It marked the fourth honorary doctorate awarded in the past 11 years at the Baptist-affiliated university. President Lee Royce told commencement ceremonies that Saturday at the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Founded in 1826, Mississippi College awarded its first honorary degree in 1843.

Staff Changes



FIRST CHURCH, YAZOO CITY, has called Clint Ritchie as pastor. A lifelong resident of Arkansas, he holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary. His family consists of wife, Jennifer, and two daughters, Addison and Whitley.



FIRST CHURCH, BOYLE, has called Chas McMin as music minister. Shown are McMin with his wife Faith, and pastor Clarence Edwards with his wife, Sandra.

FIRST CHURCH, SOUTHAVEN, has called Ken White as pastor. He earned his bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain College, his master of divinity from Mid-America Seminary, and his doctor of ministry from Southern Seminary. He has served Beulah Church, Myrtle, New Prospect Church, Oxford, and Tusculumbia Church, Booneville. He is shown with his wife Angie and children, Jon Tyler (left), Kendall (2nd from left), Maryanna (right) and Joseph (front center).



MT. OLIVE CHURCH, SMITHDALE, has called Steve Sowell as minister of music. He is shown with his wife Judy.

Mississippi woman reelected as IMB recording secretary

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP and local reports) — Vickie Mascagni, a member of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, was elected to another term as recording secretary of the International Mission Board during the trustee's regularly-scheduled meeting May 13-14 in Spartanburg, S.C.

Mascagni, a registered dietitian, also serves on the search committee to replace IMB President Tom Elliff, a former IMB missionary who has served as head of the Southern Baptist missionary-sending entity since 2011.

Sparked by the disconnect between burgeoning spiritual loss and flat-line missions giving, Elliff urged in an address to trustees at the Spartanburg meeting that Southern Baptists break from tradition and embrace new opportunities to send and support their global missionary force.

Speaking to trustees May 13-14 in Spartanburg, S.C., Tom Elliff warned that IMB "must come to grips" with the unsustainable demand placed on the organization's resources from years of declining Cooperative Program (CP) receipts and sluggish giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions — the two revenue streams that provide the bulk of IMB's annual budget.

Elliff said even if CP and Lottie Moon giving remained steady or saw modest gains IMB would still be hard-pressed to continue supporting the 4,900 Southern Baptist missionaries serving today, much less meet multiple field requests for hundreds of new personnel.

"We have not substantively addressed the issue of missionary support for 89 years," Elliff said. "For all practical purposes, IMB's only answer has been

to encourage Southern Baptists to increase their giving — the same message, only louder, again and again."

Elliff said that's why he believes IMB must make significant changes, and soon. The issue isn't about money, he told trustees, but about the billions who don't know Jesus.

"The world is not waiting for Southern Baptists to 'catch on and catch up,'" Elliff stressed. "The world is moving on while the ranks of hell are rapidly swelling with men and women, boys and girls, and their only hope is that their lives might be intercepted by people who are chasing the darkness."

While Elliff stopped short of suggesting specific changes, deferring that responsibility to the IMB's next president, he chose instead to highlight areas where change is most critical.

He started with an imperative to help missionaries better connect and communicate with Southern Baptist churches.

"I have heard individuals say that the beauty of working with IMB is that our missionaries don't have to raise their own financial support ... [allowing them] to fully focus on the tasks of evangelism, discipleship, and the planting of healthy, reproducing churches, but our strength will become our weakness if at any time our support is taken for granted or when it breeds an air of ingratitude."

"This is a tactile, hands-on generation, with churches eager to play a personal, up-front role in missions," he said. "Our Southern Baptist churches have within them some of the most passionate, creative, and concerned pastors and lay men and women on the planet. We must hear them ... We must be willing to loosen our grip and invite them to help us."



SPECIAL CALL — Many came forward to pray for 59 new international missionaries and to obey their own calling from God to follow Him wherever He leads during the IMB missionary appointment service May 14 at First Church, Spartanburg, S.C. (BP special photo courtesy of IMB)

International Mission Board appoints 59 to mission fields

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP and local reports) — Jessica Wolfe's life changed forever on her first international missions trip nearly a decade ago.

"I had the opportunity to share Jesus with a college student in Asia who asked me, 'Who is Jesus?' After being asked that question, the Lord began to tug on my heart to reach out to those in the world who had never heard His name. It broke my heart and continues to do so after all these years."

Wolfe, 28, isn't just shedding tears over the world's lostness. She's doing something about it. Along with her husband Taylor, she's going to sub-Saharan Africa to tell others about Jesus who haven't heard His Name.

The Wolfes were among 59 new international missionaries appointed May 14 by International Mission Board (IMB) trustees at First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.

The new workers come from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds: firefighter, state trooper, financial planner, surgeon, scientist, senior pastor, photographer, writer, petroleum engineer, pediatric nurse, college teacher, software developer, and even a would-be comedian.

"We're here before you tonight because God called an atheist and a Buddhist to be his missionaries to East Asia," one new missionary couple announced together. "I went from someone who did not know God to someone whose life is telling others about God," the husband said. "I left a life of wealth to store up treasures in heaven."

His wife added: "I went from someone who worshiped many gods to someone who teaches others about the one true God. I left Eastern religion to follow the Savior of the world."

What unites them all is the desire to obey Jesus Christ and a deep burden for peoples across the world searching for Him.

"As a 10-year-old girl, I thought

missionaries must be superhuman to go across the world and leave their families," said a new worker — one of several whose name and mission field cannot be identified for security reasons, "but now I stand before you as a single lady who simply desires to obediently follow God's call to serve among Muslim women in Asia. I'm not superhuman."

Another new missionary headed to Asia with his wife and children put it this way: "We're humbled that our extraordinary God has called our very ordinary family to fall in love with [lost people] so that they might come to know Him."

For some, the call of God has been bubbling below the surface for a long time. "When I was in high school, God instilled in me two desires: to preach His Word where it has never been heard, and to pursue a career in medicine," said a 39-year-old physician headed for North Africa.

"After many years of training and preparation, now is the time. I'm excited to be 'His hands,' bringing physical healing and spreading seeds of the Gospel."

For others, the Lord's leading overseas seemingly came out of nowhere. "Most of my life, missions was not even on my radar," another new missionary going to Asia said, "but as God opened doors and we began going on short-term trips, the seed was planted."

His wife admitted that during her growing-up years, "I didn't even know what a missionary was but God had a plan. As I grew, my heart for the lost softened and He called."

After listening to the missionaries' stories of how they heard and responded to God's calling, IMB President Tom Elliff — himself a former IMB missionary — directed an invitation to obedience to the many relatives, friends, and church members attending the service.

"What is the Lord's invitation?" he asked. "We read in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 11, beginning in verse 28, 'Come to Me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.' I'm giving this invitation on behalf of our Lord, of course, but I'm also giving it on behalf of our appointees."

The passage contains three imperatives, Elliff said: Come, take and learn.

■ Come. "Your children are not going overseas to spread religion," he reminded the parents of the missionaries. "They are not going to subject people to the bondage of a religion. They are encouraging people to enter into a personal relationship with the One and the only One who died on the cross for them to pay for their sins and is risen from the grave and is alive today and can give them abundant and eternal life if they will repent and believe in Him. That's why they're going."

■ Take. "Take My yoke upon you." It's not just an invitation to salvation; it's an invitation to service," Elliff said of Jesus' words. "You know what a yoke is. It fits an animal to a task, whether it's pulling a cart or a wagon or a plow. 'Take My yoke upon you,' says the Lord Jesus. 'I have a plan for your life. ... Enter into what I'm doing in this universe.'"

■ Learn. "There's an invitation to surrender, to learn," Elliff continued. "Sometimes we talk about the importance of the fear of God. It doesn't mean to cower before Him as a slave would cower before a master. What does it mean? It means to have such a big idea of God that you just surrender. ... Jesus is saying, 'Surrender. Give up. My way is best. Just surrender to Me.'"



NEW OFFICERS — International Mission Board (IMB) trustee officers elected May 13 during the trustee meeting in Spartanburg, S.C., include (from left) First Vice Chair Doyle Pryor with his wife Sarah, Second Vice Chair Sandie Anderson, and Chairman John Edie. Recording Secretary Vicki Mascagni of Clinton is not pictured. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

BIBL iOciPHER

TJ CXD HDLTJJTL LEU RBDZCDU CXD

XDZODJ ZJU CXD DZBCX.

LDJDGTG EJD: EJD

Clue: $H = B$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 10:11
By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

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STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

MS POSITIONS

LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTER SEEKS PASTORATE, INTERIM, OR PULPIT SUPPLY POSITION IN THE NINE MS AREA. Call 662-871-8913.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IN CO. LUMBUS, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME (25 HOUR WORK WEEK) MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Please e-mail resume to office@mtzionbaptist.com or mail to: Mt Zion Baptist Church, 1791 Lake Lowndes Road, Columbus, MS 39702

SPLUNGE BAPTIST CHURCH (MONROE COUNTY) SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR: Please send resumes to Splunge Baptist Church % Pastor Search Committee/Ronnie Boozar 60653 Splunge Rd Greenwood Springs, MS 38848 or email to ronnieboozar@gmail.com

FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Contact Pastor Scott Crawford at pastor@fbcpearl.org

HOLLY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PREACHER/PASTOR. If interested please call: 601-833-8437 or 601-935-2239

PATHWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH IN LAUREL (POWERS COMMUNITY) IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Traditional building, fellowship hall, and parsonage. Contemporary congregation. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Pathway Community Church, 15 Lawnhaven Church Rd, Laurel, MS, 39443-9203 For more info, call Mark (601) 998-3205

LEMOYNE BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING PERMANENT PASTOR. Please send resumes to: LBBC Pastor Search Committee, 15005 Lemoine Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39532

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROOKLYN, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A YEAR ROUND BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR. Please email cover letter, resume and references list to allen@allowaylaw.net

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EUPORA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Learn more about the ministries of FBC Eupora at www.fbcupora.com. Please send your resume to FBC Eupora, ATTN: Minister of Music Committee, P.O. Box 268, Eupora, MS 39744.

Teen Christian recalls death of family at hands of Boko Haram

WASHINGTON (BP) — A teenage Christian survivor of Boko Haram terrorism in 2011 talked openly May 13 for the first time about her ordeal, expressing hope that her story would encourage Christians to persevere in persecution.

Deborah Peters, 15, said in a panel discussion hosted by Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., that Boko Haram murdered her Christian father and brother and bound her between the corpses at her home near Chibok — the same town where the Islamic terror group kidnapped nearly 300 school girls in April.

"I hope if people hear my story, I think they will understand," Peters said, "and they will know more and more of what God said and they will understand what it means to stand strong and have courage."

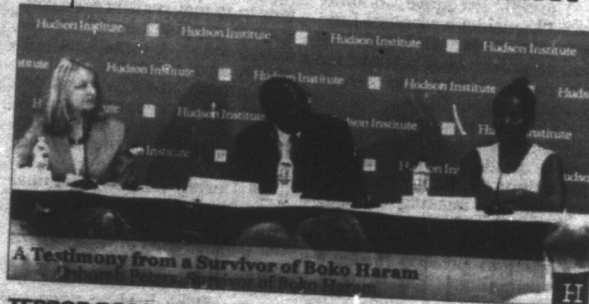
Peters was joined on the panel by Emmanuel Ogebe, a human rights lawyer with the U.S. Nigeria Law Group and expert in U.S.-Nigerian relations, who helped Peters come to the U.S. through a program established after Sept. 11, 2001, to aid victims of terrorism.

While Peters' father was Christian, her mother was Muslim and fled to safety a month before the murders, after Boko Haram destroyed the church Peters' father pastored.

"In November, they burned his church but still, he didn't give up and built the church again," Peters said, "so they said OK, they're gonna kill him, and they came to our house and killed him."

On the night of Dec. 22, 2011, three Boko Haram militants entered the Peters home after knocking on the door. They pulled her father from the shower, demanded he renounce his faith, and killed him when he refused, Peters recounted.

Her father referenced Matthew



A Testimony from a Survivor of Boko Haram
TERROR DESCRIBED — In this screen grab, Boko Haram terrorism survivor Deborah Peters (right) told her story in a panel discussion hosted by Hudson Institute in Washington D.C., on May 13. Peters was by Emmanuel Ogebe (center), an international human rights lawyer and expert in bilateral U.S.-Nigerian relations, and Nina Shea (left), Hudson Institute senior fellow and director of the Center for Religious Freedom. (BP photo)

10:33 in holding fast to Christianity. "He told them that he should rather die than go to hellfire," Peters said, "so he then told them that [Jesus] said anyone that denied Him, He's gonna deny them in the presence of His Dad in heaven, so my dad refused to deny his faith and they [shot] him three times in his chest."

Surmising that her brother might become a Christian pastor if allowed to live, the men shot him twice in the chest and after his body convulsed, once in the mouth, Peters said.

"I was in shock. I didn't know what was happening," Peters said, "so they put me in the middle of my dad and my brother. The next day the army came ...and [took] me to hospital."

Ogebe said while Boko Haram in 2011 portrayed themselves as "gentlemen terrorists" and fostered a reputation of only killing men, they have escalated in number and callousness.

The point is Boko Haram says

we don't kill the elderly, we don't kill the young, and we don't kill women. Those are the three exceptions they had. The Christians, the Jews, the Muslim apostates, they don't count. We'll kill them, and so her story from a couple of years ago is classic.

"They came in. They killed the pastor and then they made a calculation that the son, who was an exception to the targets, should be killed because he might grow up and become a pastor. This was an example of Boko Haram shifting the goalpost of those it would not kill."

"The Christian response to this genocide was they would move the men out and leave the women behind ...because Boko Haram said we don't kill women. That changed last month. Boko Haram realized, you know, we've killed all the men or we've run them out of town... and the next thing we have almost 300 young women abducted, taken to this camp, and they've become slave brides."

So. Baptists cite Boko Haram in opposition to sex trafficking

NASHVILLE (BP) — As Boko Haram threatens to sell more than 200 kidnapped Nigerian Christian girls as Muslim brides, Southern Baptist leaders are underscoring the horrors of sex trafficking and encouraging fervent prayer for the victims.

The international community has joined the Nigerian government in searching for approximately 223 teenage girls kidnapped by the terrorist group from a boarding school in Chibok, Nigeria, in mid-April. Boko Haram claims to have converted more than 100 of them to Islam and threatens to sell the girls as forced brides or sex slaves to Muslim men.

Southern Baptists have long protested sex trafficking, including four resolutions decrying the sin, the latest being a 2013 resolution on protecting children from sexual abuse. Leaders encourage prayer and humanitarian aid for the victims.

"There are several ways that Southern Baptists should respond to the tragedy in Nigeria," said Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans.

"First, we should pray for the protection of the kidnapped girls. Secondly, we should pray for the release of the girls as soon as possible. Third, we should request that our elected officials in Congress use all of the political and legal means necessary to demand the immediate release of the kidnapped girls."

Southern Baptist pastors should remind their congregations of the tragedy and motivate members to pray for the girls daily, Luter told Baptist Press. "We can make sure that this tragedy is not forgotten by making sure we keep discussing this kidnapping until the young girls are released."

Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, encouraged prayer and humanitarian aid.

"We pray that our missionaries and philanthropic international activities will be able to assist these girls and their families in the days ahead," Page told Baptist Press. "It is unconscionable that this happened. It reveals the cowardly heart of this extremist group."

SBC

cont. from p. 1

Qualifications for churches

The SRC Executive Committee will consider a proposal June 9 to update the SBC constitution regarding qualifications for churches to send messengers to the annual meeting.

During its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, the Executive Committee decided to place the item on its June 9 agenda prior to the SBC annual meeting in Baltimore to allow Southern Baptists time to discuss the proposed change and provide feedback. The committee's deliberations, then, will determine whether the proposed revision will be presented to messengers during the annual meeting.

Read more about the proposal bpnews.net/42039/updated-qualifications-weighted-for-messengers, and bpnews.net/42114/qa-article-iii-on-messenger-qualifications.

SBC smartphone app

Messengers to the annual meeting once again can stay up to date with an SBC annual meeting smartphone app, which will include more than a dozen features, including maps, alerts, the Book of Reports, and the Daily Bulletin. More information will be available about the app in the weeks ahead.

Other highlights

■ With the theme, *Show Us Your Glory*, the June 8-9 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will welcome pastors and their wives for a two-day event of preaching, worship, and prayer. The sessions will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference President Bruce Frank has said he chose speakers who "have a heart to pour into pastors."

The Pastors' Conference is

free and requires no registration. To learn more about this year's schedule, sponsors, and theme, visit sbpc.net.

■ Childcare for children ages birth through 12 years will be offered during all Pastors' Conference sessions. Children ages four to 12 may register for a conference provided by Children's Conferences International at childrensconferences.com.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief childcare volunteers will offer childcare for newborns through age five during the Pastors' Conference.

■ During its fourth annual Send North America luncheon, NAMB will once again highlight its partnership with Southern Baptists to push back lostness throughout North America. The event will be held at noon on June 9 in the Ballroom on Level 400 of the Baltimore Convention Center.

There is limited seating for this free Baltimore-themed lunch. Attendees must register and have a ticket to attend. Tickets are available at snaluncheon.com.

■ With the theme, *Go Forward, the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary will host Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting on June 8-9 in Baltimore. WMU will wrap up a year-long celebration of its 125th anniversary.*

"What better place ... than the home of Annie Armstrong!" Debby Akerman, president of national WMU, said in reference to Baltimore and Armstrong, who was instrumental in the missions organization's founding in 1888 and was its first corresponding secretary.

This year's WMU celebration will feature a joint commissioning service on June 8 of about 100 new field personnel representing the International Mission Board (IMB) and NAMB.

■ With the theme, *No Fear. No Excuses. He is Able*, from 2 Timothy 1:12, the Ministers' Wives Luncheon will be held June 10 in the Key Ballroom at the Hilton Baltimore. The event will feature Priscilla Shirer, au-

thor of several books, including *One in a Million*, *The Resolution for Women*, and most recently *God is Able*.

Advance tickets are \$15 at LifeWay.com/sbcwives; \$20 at the door.

■ The National African American Fellowship will celebrate its 20th anniversary June 7-9 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The fellowship is working to establish a partnership with the North American Mission Board to plant churches. It would focus on utilizing models that are culturally relevant and raising money to fund church plants.

■ GuideStone Financial Resources will again offer a wellness center during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Messengers can visit the exhibit hall in Baltimore to take advantage of the wellness center's services, valued at \$150.

GuideStone will offer retirement and insurance meetings during the SBC annual meeting and Pastors' Conference June 9-11.

Registration

Register online at sbannualmeeting.net, under the Messengers tab. After completing online registration, each messenger will receive an eight-digit registration code to present at the annual meeting's Express Registration Lane. There, the registration code can be entered into a computer and a nametag will be printed.

STAFF WANTED

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries

■ Houseparent couples for the Baptist Home for Children, Monticello, Ark. These full-time positions include salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave. Contact: Randy Luper, 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.

www.abchomes.org



The traditional registration method also will be available.

Resolutions

Messengers planning to propose resolutions must submit them no later than 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at sbannualmeeting.net, under the Messengers tab. Resolutions may be submitted online but must be followed up by a letter of credentials from the submitter's church.

Children/Youth

Preschool child care and activities for children who have completed grades one through six

will be housed at the Baltimore Convention Center, the annual meeting site. Youth who have completed grades seven through 12 will begin their days at the convention center with worship before going into the community for hands-on missions work.

Pre-registration is required online at sbannualmeeting.net, under the Children/Youth tab. All participants should register as soon as possible because of limited space. Due to space limitations and worker-to-children ratio objectives, onsite registration will not be accepted.

To read more about child care options offered during the SBC Pastors' Conference and annual meeting, visit bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=42122.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530; FAX: (601) 292-3330; E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 25, 2014

Invest in the Best • Song of Songs 5:6-8; 6:1-3; 8:4-7

The idea of making an investment is a very common idea in our society today. We are encouraged to make financial investments in stocks and bonds, or in the up and coming new companies. We are also encouraged to make time investments to make our business or families successful. Even in the church we encourage people to make investments in the ministries of the church. Marriage is no different when it comes to making an investment. People who are married need to understand that it takes a lot of investing to make a marriage work—the investment of time, forgiveness, understanding, love, etc. Adults need to affirm the sanctity of marriage as ordained by God in Mark 10. It is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant relationship, and in its uniqueness it reveals the relationship between Christ and His church. In the society in which we live, biblical marriage is taking a big hit as the divorce and cohabitation rates continue to rise. The time is well at hand for adults to be proactive in protecting their marriage and the marriages of their loved ones.

Longing Love (Song of Songs 5:6-8)

There is no such thing as a marriage that has no ups and downs. As life comes

at us at a very fast pace, it can test the strength of even the best relationship. People who are married must work together to deal with those ups and downs. Solomon's bride, the Shulammitte, expresses in this passage her desire to be with her husband both physically and emotionally. She also hoped for his undivided attention when they were together. It is not known if the groom was physi-

cally present with her, but it seems that if he was, he was still far distant from her. Some of the most miserable and trying times in our marriages are when we are in the same house but caught up in the turmoil of our present situation. During those times we long for an emotional or physical expression of love from our spouse. Without these intentional expressions of love, we will not be able to work through the down times, therefore threatening our marriage relationship.



Explore the Bible with Huey Dedmon

Exclusive Love (Song of Songs 6:1-3)

We all have heard the old adage that some of the sweetest moments of a marriage relationship are when you make up after a disagreement. Our passage is spoken by the Shulammitte. She is very aware of Solomon's physical location, and she is recounting his words of affirmation and praise. She remembers his admiration for his bride,

and his words assuring her of his adoration for her above all others. Just as the words we speak can bring someone down,

they can also lift a person up. Marriage partners make a commitment to each other to forsake all others, and give their spouse all their admiration and praise. Careful attention must be given in a marriage to speak words of love, praise, commitment, encouragement, and admiration to our spouse. That person is our exclusive love and partner through all of life's trials and triumphs.

True Love (Song of Songs 8:4-7)

The timing of finding the person God has chosen to be our marriage partner will always be a mystery. For some, they instantly know that the person they are with is the one they want to spend their whole life with. For others, it takes time to make that discovery. Our passage here reminds us that exercising caution in love is important. Sexual encounters outside of the marriage relationship can awaken love at an inappropriate time in our life, but when the time is right, do not let the joys of love pass by you. While most of the words of praise we have looked at thus far are praises to the lovers themselves, this passage praises love itself. They praise the love that has been awakened between Solomon and his bride. This great love has its roots in the love of Yahweh himself. His love is a selfless love that is demonstrated to us through the sacrifice of His son, Jesus, on the cross for our sin. His love is a strong love that cannot be extinguished, and we are to emulate His love in our marriage relationship. We demonstrate true love for God and for others by following God's plan for our lives.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education and Outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

Hope Shared • Acts 3:1-10

So then, hope-full-y, here is our completed outline: HOLY HOPE RECEIVED leads to a person who is WHOLLY HOPE FILLED which results in HOLY HOPE SHARED with an empty bucket world. (Before you reach for your dictionary, I looked up "wholly" and it is spelled correctly and it means completely and totally. "Holey" is spelled correctly, too. Read on and I'll explain.)

If (stop...read that word again) you have received hope—truly received hope—you simply CANT NOT share it with others. Your empty bucket has been wholly filled with the holy hope found only in Jesus. That holy hope explodes, blowing holes in your bucket. You slosh, splash and spray your hope all over the place. Watering cans, shower heads and fire hydrants come to mind here. Which hope sprayer are you? Empty buckets of hopeless folks get filled to overflowing when your hope is shared. This is not simply an outline to organize thoughts...it's an outline to live. Unshared HOPE was no hope at all.

Peter and John and the others could have just remained on the shore after breakfast in John 21. They didn't. They returned from the Sea of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem to complete their assignment: leave the fishing beach and hit the people streets. My favorite outline for the

Book of Acts: Jesus Goes Up. The Holy Spirit Comes Down. The People Go Out. True full bucket people look for empty bucket people. That announcing rooster ain't got nuthin' on Peter and the boys now! Boat rowers became gospel rowers.

The third chapter of Acts opens in Jerusalem. The time is the ninth hour, the hour of prayer in the temple, 3PM our time. Peter and John are on their way to the temple to pray. The guys who ran a foot race to the empty tomb now paired up to pray and prepare to preach. They encountered a man lame from his birth. Acts 4:22 tells us that this man was over 40 years old. No leg muscle tone. No taut ligaments or tendons. No nerve messages being sent. No strength or ability to move at all. Total physical atrophy. He had to be carried around and dropped off by others so that he could beg for his daily existence. His begging spot was The Beautiful Gate. I'm sure he felt anything but beautiful.

Our lame man heard these two men walking by and mechanically cried out for a monetary gift of mercy called "alms" for the poor. People on this path to the temple usually felt obligated to help. In despair and defeat, he must have been staring at the ground because Peter's first words of response were these, "Look at us!"

His eyes were not lame. Very soon, neither were his dead legs! He looked up.

He stretched his empty cup toward a down-stretched hand. The hand had no coins?!? Their eyes connected. He heard

the words. He dropped the cup. He grabbed the hand. Immediately, by the healing power of the Name and Promise of Jesus of Nazareth, he JUMPED up! When he landed, he was standing on his own two healed feet which were connected to his own two healed legs! The woman at the well abandoned her bucket in the pursuit of living water. I imagine that

our lame man left his begging cup right there at that Beautiful Gate. Who needs alms when you got legs?!?! Grin.

Yes, my precious Baptist friends, he left that sit-down spot dancing just like David with all his might before the Lord. He walked. He danced. He leaped. He gave God the glory all the way into the temple, a place he had not been allowed to enter. From day zero, he had been considered dead because of those dead legs. Dead folks can't worship. First he danced, then he knelt in prayer between two fishermen, hooked by HOPE!

Whatever our outward limitations, we all need inward healing. We arrive on Earth without hope, paralyzed in total spiritual atrophy. Don't despair! There's a cross for that! In that same city at 3PM about two months earlier, from the center sinner's cross, Hope Himself said, "It is finished." These May graduation ceremonies are called "commencements." His ending was our beginning!

Mister Lame had been carried and dropped off by others his entire life. Now he was carried and held by The Lamb for eternity! Do you need to change Carriers?

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland

Bible Studies for Life with Becky Brown



GOODWATER CHURCH, MEEHAN, celebrated its 150th anniversary May 4. Shown is Greg Massey, AMD for Lauderdale County, presenting pastor Jeremy Clearman with a certificate noting 150 years of service to Jesus Christ.



Revivals & Homecomings

- **Concord Church, Meadville:** Homecoming, May 25; service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and afternoon service; Ronny Robinson, speaker.
- **Mont Rose Church, Quitman:** Homecoming, May 25, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert Sanders, speaker; Tim Goodson, music.
- **Calvary Church, Carroll County:** Homecoming, May 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the pavilion; Lamonda Stanford, music; Charles Nail, speaker; Bud Vance, pastor.
- **Antioch Church, Lawrence Association:** Homecoming, May 25; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; singing or song service, 10:30 a.m. with the Clark Wilson group; worship, 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Bill Miller, speaker.

Just for the Record



The youth of **PROVIDENCE CHURCH, GRENADA**, performed a rendition of The Passion of the Christ Easter Sunday morning.

In other Church News:

► **Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie**, will host Jason Runnels in concert May 25, 6 p.m. Love offering.

► **First Church, Biloxi**, is hosting Living Proof Live June 27 - 28 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi.

► **First Church, Gulfport**, is hosting a YOU Lead Women's Conference June 26 - 27. For information, contact the Living Proof Live Biloxi City Coordinator at (228) 365 - 3480 or lpbiloxi@gmail.com.



POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH, NEWTON, held a baby dedication Mother's Day. Shown are the Koseys, Martez, Chasity, and Miranda, with pastor James Spencer.



FIRST CHURCH, BOYLE, held a baby dedication service May 11. Shown, from left, are Tyler and Lori Gawm, Emma Claire Tanier, and Anna Clinton Gawm (baby); and Jennifer and Max Davidson with Joseph Frazier Davidson (baby).



FIRST CHURCH, NETTLETON, held its first annual Nettleton Passion Play, Jesus Messiah, over Palm Sunday weekend. Over 1100 people attended the worship services over the three-day period.



SALEM CHURCH, COLLINS, recently won first place in the 25th annual Okatoma Festival parade in Collins. The theme of the parade was A Covington County Homecoming and the float theme was The Ultimate Homecoming.



BIG LEVEL CHURCH, BIG LEVEL, held a 5K Run/Walk benefit for their mission trip to Guatemala June 1. Shown is the "Run for God" team that sponsored the event.



Members of the **WEBSTER ASSOCIATION** Disaster Relief Team and additional volunteers are shown helping in Louisville.



PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH, WOODLAND, held a Brotherhood Mother's Day breakfast with Pam Rinehart, speaker, for all the church mothers and children.